



GAIL FARBER
Director of Public Works

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

November 28, 2012, Meeting

El Monte Airport

4233 Santa Anita Avenue

El Monte, CA 91731-1670

(626) 448-6129

COMMISSIONERS

CLINTON SIMMONS
CHAIRMAN

DENNIS C. LORD
VICE CHAIRMAN

PETER AMUNDSON
SECRETARY

GEORGE G. BUTTS
MEMBER

ANGELO R. CARDONO
MEMBER

BOBBY E. CHASE
MEMBER

PENELOPE CORNWALL
MEMBER

HARVEY HOLLOWAY
MEMBER

ARON A. WOLF
MEMBER

VACANT
MEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Clinton Simmons
Vice Chairman Dennis C. Lord
Secretary Peter M. Amundson
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner George G. Butts
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Richard L. Smith, Chief, Aviation Division
Ms. Victoria Frausto, Staff Assistant

AMERICAN AIRPORTS CORPORATION - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Chris Brooks, Manager, El Monte Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Cyle Woodruff, Manager, Brackett Field Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Gilbert Viramontes, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Simmons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. October 24, 2012, Minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved on a motion from Vice Chairman Lord, seconded by Secretary Amundson.

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on Whiteman Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Marino reported that aircraft hangar inspections will continue through December.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that the Airport Traffic Control Tower transmitters and receivers for the vehicle entrance gate and the intercom system were replaced. They are now operational.

- **Projects**

Mr. Marino reported that during the rain storm in October, run-off water from the County of Los Angeles Fire Department's property flooded the airport entrance at Airpark Way and Osborne Street. Public Works has completed a reconstruction project which redirects the flow of the run-off water to prevent similar flooding from occurring.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Marino stated that year-to-date aircraft operations are down 9.18 percent from the previous year, and 75 percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied. Of the occupied hangars, six are being used for non-aviation purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were down 11.55 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 45.45 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Marino provided the Commission with flyers for the airport's Open House, which is scheduled to be held at the airport on Sunday, December 9th. Commissioner Cornwall commended Mr. Marino for putting together flyers for the Open House event both in English and Spanish.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that the Whiteman Airport Association will hold its annual holiday party at the airport on December 9th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mr. Marino announced that a Santa Clause Fly-in Event is scheduled to take place at the airport on Saturday, December 15th.

Mr. Cyle Woodruff reported on Brackett Field Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Woodruff reported that the airport's operations truck is being repaired for leaks and is expected to return from repairs today.

- **Projects**

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that the County's Geotechnical and Materials and Engineering Division recently took some samples of soil on the airport in a location where spill had occurred a decade ago.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Woodruff reported there are 37 vacant aircraft hangars at the airport and 50 occupied aircraft hangars which are being used for non-aviation purposes.

Jet-A fuel sales were up 37 percent and Avgas fuel sales were down 10 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Year-to-date, Jet-A fuel sales are up 20 percent and Avgas fuel sales are down 12 percent.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that the airport's Open House had taken place on November 18th and that a sizeable crowd between 500 to 800 people attended the event.

Mr. Woodruff announced that the Brackett Airport Association meets at the airport on the first Thursday of every month and will host its Christmas dinner at the airport on Thursday, December 6th, at 6 p.m.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Woodruff reported that a fatal car accident occurred just outside of the airport on Fairplex Drive. Airport staff first responded to the scene and attempted to extinguish the fire. They were quickly relieved by the Fire Department.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on General Wm. J. Fox Airfield items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Irving reported that the on going hangar inspections are 50 percent complete.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that Caltrans Division of Aeronautics recently completed its annual 5010 Airport Master Record inspection of the airport.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that Mr. Phil Stephens was appointed as the new Chief of the Airport Traffic Control Tower.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Irving announced that the Fox Field Airport Association will host its annual Christmas event at the airport on December 8th, at 7 p.m.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that 80 percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and six aircraft hangars are vacant.

Avgas fuel sales were down 4 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 25 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on Compton/Woodley Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Herrera reported that the airport's main vehicle access gate is not working properly but will be repaired by the end of the upcoming week.

Mr. Herrera reported that hangar inspections are 50 percent complete.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Herrera reported that 98 percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied. Of the occupied hangars, 19 percent are used for non-aviation purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were down 45 percent compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Herrera announced that the airport will host its annual Christmas party at the airport on Friday, December 14th. The event will include a Toys-for-Tots drive.

Chairman Simmons expressed his appreciation to Mr. Herrera and the airport staff for recently hosting an enjoyable Excel Camp event.

Mr. Christopher Brooks reported on El Monte Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Brooks reported that the hangar inspections are expected to be complete by mid-December.

Mr. Brooks informed the Commission that the airport's wildlife management efforts and techniques have resulted in decreases in the bird and gopher populations at the airport.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Brooks reported that 99 percent of the hangars are occupied, and three aircraft hangars are vacant. The vacant hangars are expected to be rented by the second week of December.

During October, 16,399 gallons of Avgas were sold, which is an increase in sales compared to the same month last year. Also, 4,233 gallons of Jet-A fuel were sold, which is more than double the sales during the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

During the month of October, El Monte Airport hosted tours for both preschool children and the Cub Scouts.

On October 21, 2012, CalTech Flying Club held its annual barbeque at the airport.

The Fly-In and Static Display event took place at the airport on Sunday, November 25th.

The airport staff holiday party is scheduled for December 14, 2012.

The Flight Safety Seminar, hosted by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is scheduled for January 23, 2013.

C. County Aviation Division Report – Mr. Richard Smith

- **Expense and Revenue Report for October 2012**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the expense and revenue report and offered to answer any questions.

- **Office of the Inspector General Report on Contract Towers**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) recently conducted a study on contract Airport Traffic Control Towers. OIG reported that the average contract tower provides air traffic control services at a cost approximately \$1.5 million-less per year than do FAA towers.

- **National Transportation Safety Board**

Mr. Smith reported that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released its top-ten safety priority list and that general aviation (GA) safety appeared on the list at No. 5. The NTSB report also indicates that 1,400 GA accidents occur each year in the United States.

- **Minimum Standards**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the Minimum Standards and Permits were approved by the Board of Supervisors on October 30, 2012. Mr. Smith and Mr. Wardle will arrange a meeting with the airport managers to address the implementation of the minimum standards at the County-owned airports.

- **Apron Pavement Rehabilitation Project at El Monte Airport**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that a request for authorization to apply for, and accept a Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program grant for the Apron Pavement Rehabilitation Project will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on December 11, 2012.

- **North Side Helipads at Brackett Field Airport**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that a request for authorization to apply for, and accept a Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program grant for the North Side Helipad Project will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on December 18, 2012.

- **Annual Federal Aviation Administration Meeting**

Mr. Smith reported that on December 12th, he is scheduled to meet with the FAA to discuss funding needs and capital improvement plans. For this fiscal year, \$4.5 million in total grant funds have been requested for various airport capital projects.

- **Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan**

The County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning received a grant from Caltrans to prepare an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan for Brackett Field Airport. Regional Planning has engaged a consulting firm to do the work and a project working group kick-off meeting has been scheduled for December 5, 2012 to take place at Brackett Field Airport.

- **Whiteman Airport Restaurant**

Mr. Smith noted that repairs have been made to the restaurant facility plumbing, and that the County's Building and Safety and Architectural and Engineering Divisions have viewed the facility. Additionally, the County's Health Department is scheduled to look at the facility on November 29th. Mr. Smith also announced that the Request for Proposals to operate the restaurant facility is now available.

- **Caltrans Inspection**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the annual airport inspections conducted by Caltrans have been completed for this year.

- **El Monte Soil Remediation**

Mr. Smith noted that he provided the Chairman with a monthly breakdown of the Department of Public Works' Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division's (GMED) fees for the underground storage tank work that the Chairman had requested. The Soil Remediation Project for the airport was put on hold by GMED because no water was found in the wells. GMED is evaluating the alternatives of either drilling the existing wells deeper, drilling new wells, or waiting for the possibility of water to naturally return to the existing wells, during the rainy season.

- **Geographical Information System Projects**

Mr. Smith presented the Commission with a sample Geographical Information System (GIS) drawing of Whiteman Airport. The drawing, in color coding, depicts the layers or aspects of the airport including airport pavements and markings, buildings, signage, and lighting. The Department of Public Works is still in the process of completing GIS

drawings for each of the County-owned airports which will ultimately be available for viewing on a GIS web site.

- **Public Works' Web Site and Twitter Account**

Mr. Smith reported that updates to the new Public Works' web site, particularly the Aviation Division pages, are still in progress. Public Works is also now posting tweet updates which can be found at @LACoGoModal on Twitter.

- **North Side Helipads at Brackett Airport**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the preliminary design for the North Side Helipad Project is expected to be completed by mid-December.

- **General Wm. J. Fox Airfield Master Plan**

Mr. Smith reported that he received comments from the FAA on the final draft Master Plan Update and Airport Layout Plan documents. The comments will be sent to the consulting firm, Parsons Brinckerhoff, to be incorporated into the final documents`.

- **General Wm. J. Fox Airfield Perimeter Fence**

The design scope, schedule and fees for the Perimeter Fencing Replacement Project have been finalized with our as-needed design engineering firm, Parsons Brinckerhoff. The estimated cost will be \$95,000 for the design element of the project.

- **Whiteman Airfield Perimeter Fence**

The design scope, schedule and fees for the Perimeter Fencing Replacement Project have been finalized with our as-needed design engineering firm, Parsons Brinckerhoff. The estimated cost will be \$115,000 for the design element of the project.

D. El Monte Airport Items

Commissioners Cornwall, Amundson, Lord, and Chase expressed their support for the concept of changing the name of El Monte Airport to achieve broad support for the airport from the numerous cities throughout the San Gabriel Valley region.

Commissioner Cornwall informed the Commission that she would like to engage the various cities within the San Gabriel Valley area to inform them of how the airport is a valuable asset to the entire local area and to solicit their support for changing the name of the airport from El Monte Airport to San Gabriel Valley Regional Airport. Commissioner Cornwall also announced that

she is planning to speak with Supervisor Gloria Molina regarding the potential name change for the airport.

Secretary Amundson indicated that he believes that changing the name to San Gabriel Valley Regional Airport may be a good thing for the airport. He also requested that Aviation Division staff provide the Commission with an impact analysis - a summary of how the airport currently contributes in positive ways to the various local communities.

Mr. Smith agreed to provide an analysis to the Commission. He also noted that the evaluation of all points of view involved in this matter, including historical issues and geographical concerns, is important when considering such a name change. Vice Chairman Lord requested that the impact analysis be provided to the Commission by January 2013.

Vice Chairman Lord commented that at a recent Independent Cities Association event he attended, he spoke with three council members of cities within the San Gabriel Valley. He noted that each had very different views regarding the possibility of changing the airport's name. Vice Chairman Lord agreed with both Mr. Smith and Secretary Amundson that obtaining more facts is imperative before moving towards a formal proposal to change the airport's name. Vice Chairman Lord also indicated that the airport should be advertised as an emergency response epicenter and as such should be regarded as a valuable resource to the region.

Chairman Simmons stated that if the City of El Monte is not on board with an initiative to change the name of the airport, they can make changing the airport's name more difficult to accomplish. Chairman Simmons also indicated that he regards El Monte Airport as a valuable resource to the surrounding areas and he stressed the importance of the airport as an emergency response epicenter.

Commissioner Chase indicated he was initially neutral to the concept of changing the airport's name but is now in support of it. He indicated that changing the airport's name shows a resistance to complacency and should help garner the support of the various other cities within the San Gabriel Valley area.

E. Election of Commissioner Officers

Chairman Simmons indicated that the nominations for 2013 Commission Officers were as follows: Dennis Lord for Chairman, Peter Amundson for Vice Chairman, and Harvey Holloway for Secretary. Commissioner Cornwall made a motion to accept the nominations as presented by Chairman Simmons and Commissioner Holloway seconded the motion. All Commissioners present were in favor of the nominations and none were opposed.

F. Approval of the 2013 Commission Meeting Calendar

Chairman Simmons introduced the Commission Meeting Calendar for 2013. Vice Chairman Lord moved to accept the Commission Meeting Calendar for 2013 and Secretary Amundson seconded the motion. All Commissioners present were in favor of the motion and none were opposed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Gabe Lopez of the San Gabriel Valley Airport Association expressed his support of changing the name of the airport from El Monte Airport to San Gabriel Valley Airport. He indicated to the Commission that he believes that El Monte Airport is slowly dying and in need of local support and enhanced advertisement. He noted that aircraft operations and the number of aviation tenants are down. Mr. Lopez expressed his belief that changing the name of the airport will allow the airport to garner support from the other cities in the San Gabriel Valley area and foster the return of growth in general aviation at the airport.

Mr. Gilbert Viramontes, Vice President of the San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, addressed the Commission and expressed his support of changing the name of the airport. He commented that the San Gabriel Valley Airport Association could help to spread the word of the new airport name and of the value of the airport by attending city council meetings and by making presentations at local schools to engage the younger generations.

IV. ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Vice Chairman Lord announced that on December 15th, Torrance Airport will host a Toy Drive Fly-In event from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Vice Chairman Lord also announced that the Smoke Eagles will host its Flight Club dinner on December 4th, at Alvarado Country Club in Long Beach. He noted that Mr. Smith will be speaking at the event about the County Airports system.

Vice Chairman Lord also thanked everyone who attended his retirement party that took place last month.

V. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, January 30, 2013, at 10 a.m.
Brackett Field Airport
1615 McKinley Avenue
La Verne, CA 91750-5846
(909) 593-1395**

Secretary Amundson moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Holloway seconded the motion. All Commissioners present were in favor of the motion and none were opposed. Chairman Simmons adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton Simmons, Chairman
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission